

REMARKS

Claims 1-98 are pending. Claims 1-17, 21 and 26-33 are under examination. Claims 1-98 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicants pursuing these claims in a related application. Claims 99-177 have been added. Support for new claims 99-177 can be found throughout the specification and the claims as filed. In particular, support for new claims 99-177 can be found, for example, in original claims 1-98. Accordingly, these new claims do not raise an issue of new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication by the Examiner that claim 17 would be allowable if written in independent form. Applicants point out that new claim 102 corresponds to original claim 17 written in independent form.

Applicants further point out that claims 99-125 are directed to the elected group of isolated peptides and conjugates. Applicants believe that product claims 99-125 are allowable and respectfully request that the Examiner rejoin the additional species, which correspond to withdrawn original claims 18-20 and 22-25 (new claims 110-112 and 114-117).

Furthermore, Applicants point out that all of new method claims 126-177 include all of the limitations of new claim 102, which corresponds to allowable claim 17. Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the process claims that include all the limitations of the allowable product claim, as set forth in the Restriction Requirement mailed March 8, 2005.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The rejection of claims 1-17, 21 and 26-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite is respectfully traversed. Without addressing the merits of the rejection set forth in the Office Action mailed June 28, 2005, Applicants have canceled claims 1-17, 21 and 26-33 without prejudice to Applicants pursuing these claims in a related application. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot with respect to new claims 99-177.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The rejection of claims 1-16, 21 and 26-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly lacking written description is respectfully traversed. Without addressing the merits of the rejection set forth in the Office Action mailed June 28, 2005, Applicants have canceled claims 1-16, 21 and 26-33 without prejudice to Applicants pursuing these claims in a related application. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot with respect to new claims 99-177.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Samal et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,874,399, is respectfully traversed. Without addressing the merits of the rejection set forth in the Office Action mailed June 28, 2005, Applicants have canceled claims 1-4 without prejudice to Applicants pursuing these claims in a related application. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot with respect to new claims 99-177.

The rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Ruoslahti et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,491,894, as evidenced by Inazawa et al., U.S. publication 2005/0037345, is respectfully traversed. Without addressing the merits of the rejection set forth in the Office Action mailed June 28, 2005, Applicants have canceled claims 1-4 without prejudice to Applicants pursuing these claims in a related application. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot with respect to new claims 99-177.

In light of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice to this effect. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent if there are any questions.

10/648,813

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502624 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah L. Cadena".

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